

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-99

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 7, 2019

To honor, recognize, and congratulate Queen Anunay and Kishia Clemencia for becoming the third and fourth battalion chiefs in the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department's 135-year-old history.

WHEREAS, the role of battalion chief is one of honor, distinction, and prestige in that it signifies command over each fire station's officers and each company or unit's officers, as well as the uniformed firefighters;

WHEREAS, Queen Anunay, a District of Columbia native, graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with an Associate of the Arts in Fire Services Administration degree and today has nearly 30 years of esteemed service to the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department;

WHEREAS, Kishia Clemencia, a District of Columbia native, has 25 years of esteemed service to the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department;

WHEREAS, when Queen Anunay and Kishia Clemencia were cadets in the D.C. Fire and EMS Cadet program, of the department's 1,550 members, only 35 were women; today, of 1,800 firefighters at the department, 188 are women; further, only 23 women serve in officer roles out of 471;

WHEREAS, Queen Anunay and Kishia Clemencia were selected for this role from a pool of 44 candidates; further, through the interview process, they were the only two women who qualified for the high-ranking position;

WHEREAS, in their new roles as battalion chiefs, Queen Anunay and Kishia Clemencia oversee an estimated 100 firefighters at 11 firehouses in the District;

WHEREAS, D.C. Fire Chief Gregory M. Dean christened the new leaders as "pioneers" for women, especially in the higher ranks where female leadership is a rarity;

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WHEREAS, according to the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services, there are nearly 340,000 career firefighters in the United States, and of those, only 24,300 are women;

WHEREAS, as women of color, Queen Anunay and Kishia Clemencia are truly pioneers and trailblazers for girls and women in the District of Columbia, further proving that courage is gender neutral; and

WHEREAS, Queen Anunay and Kishia Clemencia's success paves the way for more women to advance and grow within the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Queen Anunay and Kishia Clemencia Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes, honors, and appreciates Queen Anunay and Kishia Clemencia for their stellar service to the residents of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.